

## TIPS FOR FREEWAY DRIVING

Driving on a freeway can be frightening, but it doesn't need to be if you follow these simple rules.

### WHEN PASSING OR CHANGING LANES:

Use your signals, check the safety factors and get into position early. After passing, wait until the passed vehicle appears in your inside mirror before returning to your original lane.

### WHEN YOU ENTER THE FREEWAY:

Accelerate to freeway speed in the acceleration lane. When you're on the freeway, permit traffic to merge smoothly and safely.

### IF YOU'RE BEING TAILGATED:

Reduce your speed gradually to encourage the tailgater to "get off your tail." And **NEVER** stop on an expressway. If you have car trouble, pull off the road. Then raise the hood and tie a white cloth around the radio antennae or left door handle.

If a breakdown occurs at night, turn on low beam lights, flashers or interior lights to prevent other drivers from running into you. If there's been an accident, slow down and proceed with caution. But there's no need to stop and stare. All you're doing is impeding traffic.

## DRINKING

Drinking and driving don't mix. So next time you feel the need of "one for the road," stop and consider these facts:

1. Over half the drivers killed in Ontario traffic accidents, had been drinking.
2. Economic loss is estimated at \$2 billion (for Canada) per year.
3. Under the Criminal Code, penalties for impaired driving range from loss of licence, plus fine, or jail.
4. Never underestimate the effects caused by loss of judgment, self-control and driver's attitude. From the very first drink, alcohol depresses the nervous system. It is not a stimulant.



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## CAR MAINTENANCE

If you are the driver of a vehicle, it's your responsibility to see that the following are in safe operational order:

### TIRES:

Check tires frequently for uneven wear, especially before long trips and at the time of your summer and winter maintenance checks. Also check front-end alignment, wheel balance and tire treads.

Check tire pressure every couple of weeks, including the spare. Sometimes the tire gauge at service stations is incorrect, so get a hand gauge and check your tire pressure with it too.

Your owner's manual will inform you of the correct tire pressure required. If you buy new tires for your used car, check the recommended tire pressure with the dealer.

If overloading your car, check your owner's manual to see if your tires need extra pressure.

Over-inflation causes tires to bulge. This results in rapid tire wear and gives less traction.

Under-inflation causes the tire to recede in the centre, so that wear increases on the outer edges; have a braking effect and waste fuel. So it's very important for proper pressure to be used.

You'll prolong tire life and add to safer vehicle control, if you rotate tires as recommended in your owner's manual.

If not properly inflated, tires can pull off the rim at speeds of 60 km/h or greater!

When putting on snow tires, the tires must match. For example, if you have radial tires on the front, you must have radial snow tires on the back. Never mix the type of tires.

### LIGHTS:

All lights must operate properly. Check headlight aim.

### STEERING:

Steering should be checked with each oil change. Keep the power steering and brake cylinder fluid reservoirs at their proper levels.

### BRAKES:

Be sure brakes are properly adjusted and have good linings.

### BATTERIES:

Tired batteries die in cold weather. If the battery is too old to do a good job — replace it.

### GLASS AREAS AND WINDSHIELD WIPERS:

Make sure the windshield wipers are in good condition and properly adjusted. In winter, add anti-freeze to the washers.

Keep all glass areas, lights and reflectors clean. A thin coat of dirt can cut headlight intensity by 25 per cent.

### MUFFLERS AND TAILPIPES:

Carbon monoxide fumes leaking from a faulty exhaust pipe can kill. It takes less than five minutes for a car left running in a closed garage to cause death. Check your exhaust system regularly.

### ENGINE:

Have the engine tuned twice annually, spring and fall.

### RADIATOR:

If you don't put antifreeze in the radiator, the engine will be ruined on the first cold, winter night. Check your owner's manual for amount required.

## TIPS FOR WINTER DRIVING

Winter driving can be frustrating. But that's no excuse for accidents to happen. Just adjust your speed to suit weather and road conditions and pay more attention to your car and driving. Don't forget you need to **SEE** to be **SEEN**. Make sure all windows are cleared of snow and ice and when visibility is poor, switch on your headlights. Drive at lower speeds. Then, if you must stop, you can.

Pump the brakes. Jamming them on can lock the wheels and cause a disastrous skid. If your car does skid, turn the front wheels in the direction of the skid.

Keep a greater distance from the vehicle ahead.

Use tire chains if necessary.

Don't forget, jack rabbit starts cause wheels to spin.

### SLIPPERY ROADS

Road conditions change from day to day. And you should be aware of these changes. This is especially true for winter driving.

### TIPS FOR ICY ROADS:

If you start on ice, apply power **gently**.

A good driver drives at lower speeds on ice. When temperatures drop to the melting point icy roads become treacherous.

Stopping on ice at the freezing point takes twice as long as it does at -10° celcius or lower.

Watch out for shady spots and bridge surfaces. Bridges ice first when the temperature drops, so be extra careful on them. Watch out for shady spots where ice may stay longer after the sun has dried the rest of the road.

### TIPS FOR WET ROADS:

The early part of a rain is the most dangerous. But you can lessen the danger of skidding by driving in the "tire wipes" left by vehicles ahead. Even in heavy rain, car tracks remain visible and relatively free of water for several hundred feet.

Hydroplaning can occur during a heavy rain storm. At speeds up to 60 km/h, most tires will wipe the road surface. But, as the speed increases, the tires can't "wipe" the road as well, and start to ride up on a film of water just like a set of water skis. This can cause skidding and you won't be able to stop quickly.

Be aware of wet leaves or standing water. Either can be as slippery as ice. And if a heavy shower or snow squall sets in, pull over. Sit it out.

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DEFENSIVE  
DRIVING  
TIPS

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# WHAT IS DEFENSIVE DRIVING?

DEFENSIVE DRIVING is a term used by pro drivers who know it's easier to **STAY OUT** of trouble, than it is to **GET OUT**.

Defensive drivers identify potential hazards on the roads and take appropriate action to avoid injuries to themselves and their vehicle.

The pro driver follows a set of rules and techniques to avoid trouble.

And you can be a defensive driver.

You should always be ready to take evasive action if the other drivers around you do something unexpected.

You should constantly be thinking of an "escape route" as you drive. Just in case a sudden emergency arises, you will have a plan of action ready and not be taken by surprise.

If a collision seems inevitable, don't panic . . . try to steer your way out of it. Do anything to **keep from hitting head-on**. If you must strike another car or object, **try to do so at a slant**.

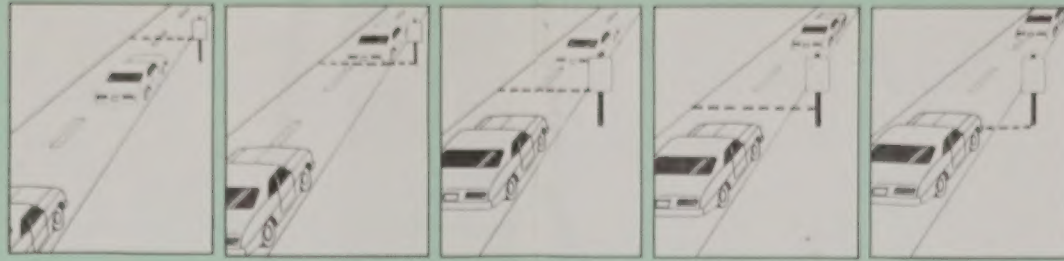
To be a defensive driver, all you have to do is know and obey **all** laws and take into account road, weather and traffic conditions while driving.

And for your safety and the safety of your passengers . . . **buckle-up**. Wear your seat belts!

The defensive driver must keep eyes open and be alert for the mistakes of others . . . and you must **concentrate** on your job of driving at all times.

**REMEMBER . . . INATTENTION IS RESPONSIBLE FOR OVER 87 PER CENT OF ALL ACCIDENTS.**

For proper following distance, use the **TWO SECOND RULE**:



A. The car ahead is approaching a check point (a hydro pole, road sign, etc.)

B. Begin counting as the rear of the car ahead passes the check point.

C. If it takes (one-thousand-one, one-thousand-two, . . . ) less than two seconds to reach the check point, you are too close.

D. Two seconds (one-thousand-one, one-thousand-two) is correct.

E. More than two seconds, (one-thousand-one, one-thousand-two, one-thousand-three, . . . ) adds up to a greater safety factor.

## DAY/NIGHT DRIVING

On sunny days, it's a good idea to wear sun glasses. When driving in bright sunlight, make sure your windshield is clean and use your sun visor. Avoid looking into the bright sunlight or you'll be temporarily blinded.

You are twice as likely to have a collision after dark, so slow down after sundown. It's a fact that your eyes are only 75 per cent as efficient as they are in day time. Remember, it takes 30 minutes for the average eye to adjust to darkness.

Drive with special care during this period of adjustment.

And don't drive blind, or overdrive your headlights. At 100 km/h, headlights illuminate 75 m (250 ft.) ahead. But if there's an accident producing situation 110 m (350 ft.) ahead, you can't stop in time to avoid it.

If you're meeting a car that doesn't dim its lights, look slightly to the right of your car and you won't be temporarily blinded.

## FATIGUE

At the first sign of fatigue, pull off the road. A walk or soft drink refreshes and relieves tension.

To fight monotony, keep your eyes moving, your window open and sing or chew gum.

You may be tired due to lack of sleep, hard work or monotonous driving. But fatigue, unfortunately, dulls the mind and decreases perception and reaction time. So, to avoid fatigue:

1. Sit at an erect, yet relaxed position at a proper distance from the controls.
2. Stop periodically for a rest and have something light to eat or just a cup of coffee.
3. Take a nap if you feel drowsy.
4. Make sure there is plenty of fresh air circulating through the car.
5. Never rely on stay-awake drugs. They're likely to make your driving even more hazardous.
6. If you find you're tired all the time, when driving, have your exhaust system checked — there could be carbon monoxide seeping into your car.

## KNOW WHERE YOU'RE AT

You should maintain a circle of safety around you, and keep your defensive eyes alert for all other traffic.

Here are the six basic positions you should be aware of:

1. . . . **The vehicle ahead.** It could either be moving or standing still. Mentally ask yourself:
  - a) Will the driver open his door?
  - b) Will the driver slow down and stop?
  - c) Will the car ahead roll back at a stop light, on a hill or slight grade?
2. . . . **The vehicle behind.** Use your mirrors. Ask yourself:
  - a) If the vehicle behind is tailgating, will it be able to stop safely?
  - b) Being tailgated? Encourage the tailgater to pass by slowing down gradually. If the driver persists in following too closely, pull over and let the vehicle pass.
  - c) Does the vehicle behind you know what you're doing? Use your signals.
3. . . . **The vehicle approaching from the opposite direction.** Ask yourself:
  - a) Will the driver straddle the centre line?
  - b) Will the driver cut across your path?
  - c) At night, will the driver keep the high beams on?
4. . . . **The vehicle approaching from an angle.** Ask yourself:
  - a) Will the driver go through an intersection, come out of a driveway, or lane; not stop at a stop sign?
5. . . . **Vehicles passing you.** Ask yourself:
  - a) Will they cut in too soon?
  - b) Will they pass on the right? Be prepared to slow down.
6. . . . **When passing another vehicle.** Ask yourself:
  - a) Is it safe to pass?
  - b) Do you have enough room to pass? Make sure you do, for there is a "point of no return."
  - c) Did you signal? Remember to check mirrors and honk your horn if necessary.

As a defensive driver, you must also always watch-out for pedestrians. They may jump out at you from between parked cars, jay walk between intersections, or suddenly leave the curb and run out in front of you.

Be especially aware of children who may also dart out in front of you . . . on foot, their bicycle, or skateboard.